

THE TIME IS NOW FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, in today's New York Times the Speaker attacked Democratic fund-raising and compares it to the Watergate scandal. Specifically, the Speaker is quoted in today's New York Times saying, "The Democratic fund-raising machine was the most systematic, large-scale effort to get around the law that I have seen since Watergate."

This comment is especially strange coming from someone who has admitted to abuses of the campaign finance system. The abuses were on such a scale that the Speaker has been fined \$300,000.

There is an old saying about people in glass houses not throwing stones, and I think it especially applies to the Speaker of this House. If the Speaker really cares about campaign finance reform, he should bring legislation to the floor immediately to correct the system. So far all we have seen is inaction by the Republicans on campaign finance reform.

KID TAX MUST GO

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, on the subject of campaign finance reform, I think there is a difference between enacting the laws that are in place and passing new laws to make it appear that there is a problem. There may be changes that are needed in our campaign finance laws, but clearly there are laws on the books that address the very things that the Clinton administration has apparently engaged in. And if they are guilty on that, the laws will respond accordingly, and I think that the Speaker is speaking to that, and I certainly believe that the Speaker was right in speaking out on this.

The thing I want to mention, with the Democratic defeat of the Balanced Budget Amendment, the children of today are in a very bleak situation as respects the future. I am a father of 4 kids and I am sick and tired of the kid tax. The kid tax is when liberal politicians pass new entitlement programs so that they can get reelected today so that your children and my children can pay for it tomorrow. I believe that the kids in America are sick and tired of the kid tax and we need to balance the budget and quit spending their money.

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO GET TO WORK

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as I awoke this morning I asked myself a

question: Why are we all here? Why is the House of Representatives in session today and why should I be in Washington rather than in Massachusetts with my constituents?

Mr. Speaker, please indulge me while I review the House schedule for today: One, a resolution congratulating the people of Guatemala; two, a resolution congratulating the people of Nicaragua; and three, a resolution commending former Secretary Warren Christopher.

Now I salute the people of Guatemala and Nicaragua for their democratization, and I think Warren Christopher is a wonderful leader and a really great guy, but should this be the agenda for the week?

I was sent here to debate and legislate on issues of concern to Massachusetts, issues like expanding educational opportunity, guaranteeing that all of our children have health care, and comprehensively reforming our ugly system of campaign finance. I call upon Speaker GINGRICH to schedule votes on issues that affect the lives of working families, issues that really mean something. It is time for this Congress to get to work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NICARAGUA

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, today the House considers legislation to applaud our neighbors in Nicaragua. Seven years ago, as an elections observer, I was sent there to see the Nicaraguan people draw the physical fight for freedom to a close successfully. That day they used the ballot box to officially cast off the Marxist government of Daniel Ortega, which once inexplicably found so many friends in Washington.

In 1990, instead of the chaos and violence of the Ortega regime, the Nicaraguans demanded peace, prosperity, justice and democracy. That historic year, the Chamorro government took the reins in difficult times, dealing admirably with the fallout of 5 years of Sandinista misrule.

With difficult issues like confiscated properties lingering, last month's peaceful transition to the Aleman administration is a significant achievement and a testament to the commitment and advancement of democracy in that country. It is only proper that today Congress pause for a minute to congratulate the Nicaraguans, to encourage them and to reiterate our support for democracy in that country.

BRING OUR JOBS HOME

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, jobs keep leaving America on the fast

track. Wrangler Jeans is laying off 3,000 workers and moving 12 factories overseas. Apple Computer, they cut 1,500 jobs last year; they are cutting another 3,000 jobs this year. Shoemaker West is cutting 1,000 jobs, moving 3 factories overseas, and now, under WTO, Costa Rica is challenging Uncle Sam over underwear. Unbelievable.

American workers are not only losing their jobs, now they are about to lose their BVD's. It is getting so bad that in Longview, WA, a robber entered a grocery store wearing a pair of pink panties over his head. The police said they never saw anything like it.

What is the surprise, Mr. Speaker? Jobs are getting so scarce in America today robbers cannot even buy pantyhose. I yield back the balance of all the lingerie and all the other problems. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

CERTIFICATION OF MEXICO SENDS WRONG MESSAGE TO DRUG KINGPINS

(Mr. SHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, on a subject of seriousness, what I want to talk about today, I find it a little difficult following the gentleman from Ohio.

It is shocking, Mr. Speaker, indeed shocking, that with all of the evidence before the President regarding the complicity of the Mexican Government and the \$30 billion a year drug trade, that he has decided to certify Mexico as a reliable partner in the war on drugs. The President's certification of Mexico makes a mockery out of the certification process.

Ironically, within mere hours after the President announced that Mexico was certified as cooperating, Mexican authorities admitted that a suspected top drug money launderer had inexplicably escaped from police custody and that they knew this days before the certification decision was made.

Is this what the President calls cooperation? Was it not enough that Mexico's own drug czar was caught accepting bribes from the drug kingpins just last week? The President was duped.

I realize that Mexico is a friend and the United States-Mexican economics are intertwined, but certifying Mexico as cooperating sent the wrong message to the Mexican Government and to the drug kingpins.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACCUMULATION PROGRAM

(Mr. ROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, during the past 15 years, tuition at 4-year public universities has increased more than 4 times the increase in median household income. If we fail to act